

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1349

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that preys upon and victimizes vulnerable populations including women, children and impoverished individuals; and

WHEREAS, both federal and state law prohibit human trafficking and provide for strong penalties for individuals who violate the law; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking includes causing another person to engage in prostitution or forced labor or services by enticing, recruiting, harboring, providing, transporting or otherwise obtaining another person by deception, coercion or force; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi policymakers have attempted to raise awareness of human trafficking and combat it through the adoption of laws prohibiting human trafficking and related activities; and

WHEREAS, the nature of human trafficking makes it difficult to identify victims, particularly victims of sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the problem of human trafficking in Mississippi persists, and more can and should be done to fight this terrible crime; and

WHEREAS, while the Mississippi Attorney General exercises primary state statutory authority to enforce the human trafficking laws, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security exercises primary federal statutory authority, many other partners have offered assistance and collaborative support:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order and direct as follows:

- (1) The Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking (hereafter Task Force) is established. The Task Force shall consist of the following individuals appointed by the Governor:
 - (a) One member of the Mississippi State Senate;
 - (b) One member of the Mississippi State House of Representatives;
 - (c) The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi or his designee;
 - (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security or his designee;
 - (e) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections or his designee;
 - (f) One Circuit Court Judge;
 - (g) One County Court Judge who has experience handling youth court matters;
 - (h) One District Attorney;
 - (i) One Youth Court Prosecutor from a County Court;
 - (j) A Representative of the Mississippi Department of Education;

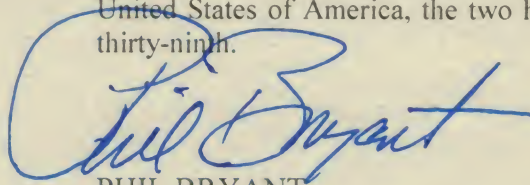
- (k) A Representative of the Mississippi Department of Human Services;
 - (l) A Representative of the Mississippi Department of Health;
 - (m) A Representative of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health;
 - (n) One representative each from the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mississippi Sheriffs Association with one member being from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the second from the Southaven area;
 - (o) A Representative from a Non-Government Organization who has been involved in assisting victims of human trafficking;
 - (p) A business leader in Mississippi; and
 - (q) At the sole discretion of the Governor, additional members with relevant experience.
- (2) The Governor shall designate two Co-Chairpersons.
- (3) The Task Force shall meet to:
- (a) Examine existing research, and/or to commission new research on the topic of human trafficking;
 - (b) Review Mississippi laws, administrative practices and law enforcement training pertaining to human trafficking;
 - (c) Take testimony from subject matter experts who have experience managing the impacts of human trafficking;
 - (d) Identify opportunities to strengthen Mississippi human trafficking statutes; and
 - (e) Make recommendations to the Governor for any changes in law, administrative practice or law enforcement training that will reduce human trafficking in Mississippi and improve sways to identify and assist the victims of human trafficking.
- (4) To the extent necessary to focus on a particular facet of Human Trafficking, the Task Force shall be authorized to establish subcommittees comprised of persons with subject matter expertise pertaining to the focal point of the subcommittee. Each subcommittee shall be chaired by at least one member of the Task Force. The findings and recommendations from the subcommittees shall be reported to the Task Force by the chairperson(s) of each subcommittee.
- (5) The Mississippi Department of Public Safety shall provide appropriate staff and administrative support to assist the Task Force in carrying out its duties. Any other state agency represented on the Task Force is authorized to provide staff and administrative support, as necessary. The Task Force may consult with employees of appropriate state agencies to accomplish its responsibilities.
- (6) The Task Force shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor by July 1, 2015. The report shall include a summary of findings and final recommendations of the Task Force to the Governor.

- (7) The status of the Task Force shall be reviewed no later than September 1, 2015, to determine appropriate action for its continuance, modification or termination.




IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 9th day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.


PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR


C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE